

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 1,2, and 8-11

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of ~~the formula (II)~~
~~compounds of claim 1~~ hydrofluoroethers of formula:



wherein:

T = CH₃;

X, X', equal to or different from each other, are selected between F, CF₃;

T' = F, Cl, H, C₁-C₃ perfluoroalkyl, CH₃, CH₂OH, COCl, CHO, CO₂H;

R_f is selected from:

- C₂-C₁₅ perfluoroalkylene;

- (C₂F₄O)_m(CF₂CF(CF₃)O)_n(CF₂O)_p(CF(CF₃)O)_q-

wherein

the sum n+m+p+q ranges from 2 to 200,

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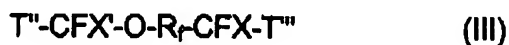
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the (p+q)/(m+n+p+q) ratio is lower than or equal to 10:100, the n/m ratio ranges from 0.2 to 6; m, n, p, q are equal to or different from each other and when m, n range from 1 to 100, then p, q range from 0 to 80; the units with n, m, p, q indexes being statistically distributed along the chain;

- -(CF₂CF₂CF₂O)_r- wherein r ranges from 2 to 200,

- -(CF(CF₃)CF₂O)_s- wherein s ranges from 2 to 200,

comprising the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors:



wherein:

T'' = COCl,

T''' = F, C₁-C₃ perfluoroalkyl, COCl, H, Cl,

X, X', R_f are as defined in formula (II) of claim 1, carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum, at a temperature in the range 20°C-150°C, at a pressure between 1 and 50 atm.

4. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the metal fluorides are selected from the group formed by CaF₂, BaF₂, MgF₂, AlF₃.

5. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the Pt concentration on the support is comprised between 0.1% and 10% with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.

6. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount in the range 1%-100% by weight with respect to the weight of the formula (III) compound.

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the inert solvent is selected among perfluorotetrahydrofuran, perfluorotetrahydropyran, or their mixtures.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors is carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum on metal fluorides.

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors is carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum in the presence of inert solvents.
14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the temperature is in the range 80°C-120°C.
15. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the pressure is between 1 and 10 atm.
16. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the metal fluorides are CaF_2 .
17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 5, wherein the Pt concentration on the support is comprised between 1% and 2% by weight with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.
18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount in the range 10%-100% by weight with respect to the weight of the formula (III) compound.